



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Department of Planning and Development
D. M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Application Number: 3003839
Applicant Name : Cathy Funtanilla for Cingular Wireless
Address of Proposal: 1417 Queen Anne Avenue N

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Land Use Application to allow a communications agency to remove and replace three panel antennas on the roof of an existing apartment and retail building. One equipment cabinet will be replaced and four new equipment cabinets will be installed for a total of five equipment cabinets to be located on the roof. The existing minor communication facility will remain.

The following approval is required:

SEPA – Environmental Determination
Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.05.

SEPA DETERMINATION: ☐ Exempt ☒ DNS ☐ MDNS ☐ EIS

☒ DNS with conditions

☐ DNS involving non exempt grading or demolition or
involving another agency with jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND DATA

Site Visit: March 28, 2006

Site & Vicinity Description

This approximately 18,427 square foot proposal site is a corner lot located on the southwest corner of Queen Anne Avenue N and West Galer Street. The site is zoned

Neighborhood Commercial 2 with a 40 foot height limit (NC2-40) and is developed with a four story building used for retail on the ground floor and residential purposes for the upper three stories. The building is legally non-conforming with a height of approximately 41 feet, eleven inches to the roof parapet. The rooftop of the building contains two existing minor communication utilities, one for Cingular Wireless and one for T-Mobile.

Surrounding Uses and Zoning

South: Residential, Multifamily Midrise (MR)
North: NC2-40
East: NC2-40 extends one property east and then is zoned Residential, Multifamily Lowrise 1
West: NC2-40 zoning

The development in the vicinity of the proposal site is mixed and contains single- and multi-family residential and commercial uses. Single-Family Residential 5000 (SF 5000) areas are located nearby to the northwest and northeast of the site.

Proposal Description

The applicant proposes to replace three existing panel antennas with those of similar appearance on the roof of an existing apartment and retail building. One equipment cabinet will be replaced and four new cabinets will be installed for a total of five equipment cabinets to be located on the roof. The antennas will be mounted to the walls of an existing rooftop HVAC penthouse and painted to match the building. An equipment screen measuring 10' by 8'6" that matches the color of the existing roof structures will be placed on the roof on the north side of the existing elevator stair access room to screen the equipment cabinets. The panel antenna will be mounted on the west side of the existing elevator stair access room, which comes to a height of 56'11" feet, and is 15 feet above the building height of 41 feet, eleven inches.

The antennas would be located on the roof of the building, which is accessible to the building's residents for open space use. Signs are posted at the roof access points warning of the presence of radio frequency radiation per FCC guidelines. The existing site is an unmanned facility that requires approximately one maintenance visit per month. No change in the frequency of visits to the site is expected as a result of this proposal.

Public Comment

The initial comment period for the proposed project ended on March 29, 2006 and one comment letter received.

SEPA ANALYSIS

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was originally made in the environmental checklist dated February 24, 2006. The information in the checklist, the applicant's statement of compliance with the Federal Communication Commission, supplemental information, and the experience of the lead agency with review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

Many environmental concerns have been addressed in the City's codes and regulations. The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665) discusses the relationship between the City's code and policies and environmental review. The Overview Policy states, in part: *"Where City regulations have been adopted to address an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulation are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation"* subject to some limitations. It may be appropriate to deny or mitigate a project based upon adverse environmental impacts in certain circumstances as discussed in SMC 25.05.665-D1 to 7. In consideration of these policies, a more detailed discussion of some of the potential impacts is appropriate.

Short-term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts are expected: a.) decreased air quality due to suspended particulate from building activities and hydrocarbon emissions from construction vehicles and equipment; b.) increased traffic and demand for parking from construction equipment and personnel; c.) consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources. These impacts are expected to be very minor in scope and of very short duration for the installation process. No conditioning of these impacts pursuant to SEPA authority is warranted.

Construction and Noise Impacts

Codes and development regulations applicable to this proposal will provide sufficient mitigation for most impacts. The replacement of the antennas and installation of equipment cabinets may include loud equipment and activities. This construction activity may have an adverse impact on nearby residences and residences in the subject building. Due to the close proximity of nearby residences, the Department finds that the provisions within the Noise Ordinance are inadequate to appropriately mitigate the adverse noise impacts associated with the proposal. The SEPA Construction Impact policies (SMC 25.05.675.B) allow the Director to limit the hours of construction to mitigate adverse noise and other construction-related impacts. Therefore, the proposal is conditioned to limit construction activity to non-holiday weekday hours between 7:00am and 6:00pm.

Long-term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of this proposal, namely increases in demand for energy and increased generation of electromagnetic radiation emission. These long-term impacts are not considered significant of sufficient adversity

to warrant mitigation. However, due to the widespread public concern expressed about electromagnetic radiation, this impact is further discussed below.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been given exclusive jurisdiction to regulate wireless facilities based on the effects of electromagnetic radiation emissions. The FCC, the City, and King County have adopted standards addressing maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits for these facilities to ensure the health and safety of the general public. The Seattle-King county Department of Public Health has reviewed hundreds of these sites and found that the exposures fall well below all maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits. The Department of Public Health does not believe these utilities to be a threat to public health.

The City is not aware of interference complaints from the operation of other installations from persons operating electronic equipment, including medical devices, e.g., pacemakers. The Land Use Code (SMC 23.57.012-C2) requires that warning signs be posted at every point of access to the antennas noting the presence of electromagnetic radiation. In the event that any signal interference in nearby homes and businesses or in clinical medical applications were to result from this proposal, the FCC has the authority to require the facility to cease operation until the issue is resolved.

This analysis and decision is based upon the information presented above, review of the literature regarding these facilities, and the experience of the Departments of Planning and Development and Public Health with the review of similar projects. The Department concludes that no mitigation for electromagnetic radiation emission impacts pursuant to SEPA policies is warranted.

DECISION – SEPA

This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

- [X] Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C).

- [] Determination of Significance. This proposal has or may have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C).

CONDITIONS – SEPA

During Construction

The following condition to be enforced during construction shall be posted at the site in a location on the property line that is visible and accessible to the public and to construction personnel from the street right-of-way. If more than one street abuts the site, conditions shall be posted at each street. The conditions will be affixed to placards prepared by DPD. The placards will be issued along with the building permits set of plans. The placards shall be laminated with clear plastic or other waterproofing material and shall remain posted on-site for the duration of the construction.

1. In order to further mitigate the noise impacts during construction, the hours of construction activity shall be limited to non-holiday weekday hours between 7:00am and 6:00pm. This condition may also be modified by DPD to allow work of an emergency nature or allow low noise interior work. This condition may also be modified to permit low noise work exterior to the building after approval from the Land Use Planner.

For the Life of the Project

2. Screening shall be erected for the equipment cabinets and the panel antenna shall resemble a typical rooftop feature, such as a chimney or mechanical duct and shall fit in with the character of the building and surrounding area. Those portions of the utility that do not represent a profile and are not covered by the screen shall be painted the match the color of the existing structure.
3. Maintain signs posted at the roof access points warning of the presence of radio frequency radiation.

Signature: _____ Date: August 17, 2006
Janet Hyde-Wright, Land Use Planner
Department of Planning and Development

JHW:bg